

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VALLET 00527 212253Z

61

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 AEC-11 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00

CIEP-02 COME-00 DODE-00 EB-11 FEA-02 FPC-01 H-03

INR-10 INT-08 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 OMB-01 PM-07 RSC-01

SAM-01 SCI-06 SPC-03 SS-20 STR-08 TRSE-00 NEA-10

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R 201600Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VALLETTA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5362

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L VALLETTA 0527

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, MT, IT, LY

SUBJ: ENERGY: OIL SUPPLIES FOR MALTA

REF: VALLETTA 0434

1. ITALIAN AMBASSADOR MASSA BERNUCCI ON MARCH 20 PROVIDED UP-DATING ON LIBYA-ITALY-MALTA SITUATION ON OIL SUPPLIES FOR MALTA.

2. MASSA BERNUCCI SAID 126,000 TONS OF PETROLEUM PRODUCTS HAVE BEEN DELIVERED ON THIS ACCOUNT, AND ITALIAN GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR CONTINUING SUCH DELIVERIES, UNTIL THEY ARE COMPENSATED BY DELIVERIES OF LIBYAN CRUDE ON MALTAESE ACCOUNT TO MONTEDISON, WILL EXPIRE MARCH 31. MASSA BERNUCCI CLAIMS THAT UP TO PRESENT LIBYANS HAVE DELIVERED ONLY 40,000 TONS, FOR WHICH LIBYA HAS NOT BEEN PAID. LIBYANS
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PAGE 02 VALLET 00527 212253Z

SAY THEY WILL NOT CONTINUE DELIVERIES UNTIL MALTESE START

PAYING. MEANWHILE, GOM IS STILL TRYING TO NEGOTIATE CONCESSIONAL PRICE FOR CRUDE. FAILURE SO FAR TO OBTAIN ANY SUCH CONCESSION WAS ALSO CONFIRMED BY TO US BY PRIME MINISTER'S PRIVATE SECRETARY CAMILLERI MARCH 16 WHEN HE ADMITTED NO SUCCESS UNTIL NOW, "BUT WE ARE STILL NEGOTIATING".

3. MALTESE ARE APPARENTLY BECOMING SOMEWHAT NERVOUS OVER SITUATION, SINCE MASSA BERNUCCI SAID CROWN ADVOCATE GENERAL MIZZI RECENTLY TOOK HIM TO TASK FOR GOI FAILURE TO BE MORE HELPFUL. MASSA BERNUCCI SAID HE REPLIED THAT HE COULD NOT ACCEPT ANY RESPONSIBILITY; MALTA MADE ITS OWN ARRANGEMENTS WITH PRIVATE ITALIAN COMPANY, WHEN GOI WOULD MUCH HAVE PREFERRED ARRANGEMENTS WITH STATE-OWNED ENI.

4. COMMENT: WHILE MALTA MAY BE SQUEEZED TEMPORARILY ON SUPPLIES, WE ASSUME GOI AND GOL WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO SOME AGREEMENT WITH MALTESE WHICH WILL ASSURE CONTINUED FLOW OF OIL PRODUCTS.GETZ

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